See the Light about pet adoption
Discover a world of happy pets at Helen Woodward Animal Center.

KODA
Boxer - Labrador Retriever Blend
Hello! I am a young and high spirited dog who loves to play with toys. I will do best in a home with an owner who has lots of experience with dogs. I am also looking for a home with older teenagers and no other pets in the home.

MOOSE
Domestic Medium Hair Blend
Do you want to take me home to play? I love meeting new friends and curling up with them and purring. I like to play and run and run and run! I can’t wait to meet you!

MATILDA
Shepherd-Hound Blend
Hello! I am very sweet and playful and can find almost anything to keep me entertained. If I seem like the dog for you, please come see me.

MIMSY
Domestic Medium Hair Siamese Blend
Hello! I am very sweet and playful and can find almost anything to keep me entertained. However, my biggest joy is being with you. Are you looking for a best friend? Let it be me!

To see more adoptables, visit animalcenter.org

CREATING A HUMANE WORLD FOR ANIMALS AND PEOPLE

Helen Woodward Animal Center is a unique, private, non-profit organization dedicated to saving the lives of animals and enriching the lives of people. For more than 45 years, our no-kill Center has provided humane care and adoption for orphan animals, as well as animal-centered educational and therapeutic programs for people. The Center is a dynamic, evolving institution that is an agent of change for the animal welfare world. Not only are we operating innovative and beneficial programs for animals and people, but we are teaching others around the world how to successfully market and promote their programs and stop the senseless death of thousands of animals.

Don’t miss a single issue...

Every issue of Helen Woodward Animal Center’s The Companion newsletter is filled with stories about the relationship between humans and the animals that we love. Four times each year The Companion keeps you informed about how you are helping us fulfill our mission of “people helping animals and animals helping people.”
Dear Friend of the Animals,

Although Helen Woodward Animal Center stays extremely busy throughout the year, the fall is an especially exciting time for us with Surf Dog Surf-a-Thon (in person!) and Remember Me Thursday® both in September. As you saw from the cover, we are honored to have Brittainy Aldean as this year’s Celebrity Spokesperson. She is also going to be receiving our Humane Award during a ceremony just days after Remember Me Thursday®. We couldn’t be more pleased to have such a wonderful advocate for this international campaign to save lives around the world.

Sadly, this messaging has never been as important as it is now with the Center being deluged with calls and emails begging for our support from shelters around the country overwhelmed by animals being surrendered and limited staffing and resources available to help. Helen Woodward Animal Center’s Adoptions team is stepping up with more transfers coming in than ever before and goals to continue expanding these efforts to meet the growing need. None of this lifesaving support is possible without your generosity so I want to personally thank you for caring for these precious lives and for joining us in our fight to save them.

On an exciting note, we are going to be able to start working with other shelters in need around the country through our “Business of Saving Lives” programming which is offered alone or as part of a larger conference. The first trip we have scheduled is to the Midwest Animal Sheltering Conference in Missouri. The team includes our PR Director, Jessica Gercke, Social Media Manager, Jackie Kelleher, and Vice President, Renee Resko of Development, as well as myself. We cover a wide variety of key topics for animal organizations, from marketing to media relations, and of course all avenues available for fundraising. Our goal is not only to provide valuable information for “best practices” in animal welfare but also to inspire and uplift each participant and remind them of the importance of their life-saving work. Helen Woodward Animal Center’s reach is truly global and we are again reminded with a recent invitation to participate in Edinburgh University Royal Dick Vet School’s 200th birthday celebration and conference in 2023. We look forward to taking our message to organizations throughout Europe that can benefit from our assistance.

Thank you for all you do and please know what a difference you are making for pets in need.

For a more humane world,

Michael M. Arms
President and CEO
Celebrity Host Helps Center Orphan Pets Find Forever Families

Helen Woodward Animal Center orphan pets are the stars of a new PeopleTV series entitled Celebrity Pet Matchmaker.

The four-episode show hosted by Full House’s Andrea Barber (who portrayed Kimmy Gibbler in the beloved sitcom), showcases families seeking a new furry family member.

Barber meets with each family to learn about their specific needs. After evaluating their lifestyle and wish-list (dog size, breed, temperament, age, etc.), Barber coordinates with Center adoption staff to find three prospective pooches that might fit the criteria. After careful deliberation, the perfect pet matches are made. Each episode ends with heartwarming catch-ups at each adopted pet’s new home.

“We are so thrilled to be a part of this heart-warming series. Each one of the matches featured on the show really was a true love story,” Jessica Gercke, Center PR Director said. “We hope others will be encouraged to consider pet adoption when they are seeking a fuzzy family member of their own.”

You can catch Celebrity Pet Matchmaker on People.com and PEOPLE’s YouTube Channel.

Nearly a year-and-a-half after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the effects are still being felt among the animal welfare community.

When COVID-19 forced shelters and rescues to cease operations in many parts of the country starting in March of 2020, Helen Woodward Animal Center became a safe-haven for thousands of orphan pets whose options were running out.

The Center opened its doors to orphan pets via van and small plane transports from states as far as Louisiana, Texas and New Mexico.

Had these shelters and rescues not been able to transport these beautiful orphan dogs, cats, puppies and kittens to San Diego, they would have been forced to make some difficult decisions.

In 2020, at the height of the pandemic, Helen Woodward Animal Center welcomed 650 more orphan pets than the year prior.

This year, the numbers are staying consistently high with nearly 2,000 orphan pets being transferred to the Center so far.

Despite many states easing up pandemic restrictions, rescues and shelters are still struggling to find room in their facilities for orphan pets due to a shrinking number of foster families available to care for pets due to them going back to the workplace and limited staff availability.

“Many of our fosters [homes] are full and we have had to shut down intake due to space as we have not been able to transport our animals to find loving homes for them. We cannot express our gratitude enough for the amazing people at Helen Woodward Animal Center for reaching out to us at this critical time,” explained our rescue partner Heart of Louisiana.

Throughout these difficult times, Helen Woodward Animal Center has made it our mission to say yes to orphan pets needing transport to San Diego. Currently, the Center transports orphan pets in need from seven states in the south and southwest with plans to expand efforts in Arkansas, Missouri, Mississippi and Alabama.

“Calls and emails have continued to pour in to the Center from rescue groups and shelters like this one from Texas who said in part...”

“I am reaching out now because our shelter has hit the summer wall. We are completely full and cannot get these animals out as fast as we have to take more in. Our team has already had to start making tough euthanasia decisions.... We desperately need help from any partners... If you have any space at all please let us know. Thank you for all you do to save animals.”

Another factor impacting rescues and shelters has been their inability to transport pets to other shelters where they would normally be accepted due to the travel restrictions.

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These life-saving road trips are only possible with your support. Send your gift today and ensure more pets in need get the opportunity at a forever home they deserve.

Visit animalcenter.org/give to donate today!
Are dogs born knowing how to swim? While many dogs do naturally have the instinct to “doggie paddle”, do not assume your pet can swim. If you have a new pet that will have access to the pool, you should start with supervised pool time to make sure they can swim. Also, many pets know how to swim but cannot find their way out of the pool safely, especially puppies, small dogs, and breeds with short legs. While training your pet, teach them how to walk out of the pool and where the stairs are located. Lastly, make sure your pet has access to fresh water outside to avoid drinking large amounts of pool water.

Is the beach safe for my dog? There are many fun, dog friendly spots on San Diego’s beaches. If you and your canine plan to partake in the fun, make sure you are doing it safely. Pets should have access to somewhere they can rest as well as fresh water. If your pet is still learning to swim, avoid areas with waves in favor of shallow areas with calmer water such as bays. If you plan to take your pet into deeper water on a paddle board, kayak, surf board, or boat, make sure they have a life jacket to ensure a safe and easy rescue. If your pet is going into the water, watch out for rip currents and strong waves. Even experienced doggy swimmers can need help, so always supervise your pet at the beach.

Every week, dozens of orphan pets arrive at Helen Woodward Animal Center seeking a second chance at love, health, and stability. For some, their arrival at the Center is their only chance to receive the state-of-the-art medical care they deserve and the time they need to heal.

One such orphan kitten arrived at the Center last October from our transfer partner in the Long Beach area.

Just weeks old at the time, our medical staff immediately took notice of Roo. She ran a constant fever, had low energy, and jaundice. Despite initial treatment and medication, Roo’s condition didn’t improve, in fact, it got worse.

Over the months that followed, our medical staff dedicated their time and energy to getting sweet Roo back on her feet. They continued running more tests and even sought out a specialist and found she was suffering from a rare life-threatening fungal infection. Her condition had even affected her eyes and vision.

Over the last nine months, Roo has received the best medical care possible. She’s getting constant check-ups, medications, and lots of love. Our network of foster families have stepped up to provide her a comfortable environment as she continues her treatment and recovery.

They say she is finally feeling well enough to show her rambunctious kitty personality.

Recently, Roo’s fungal levels are responding to treatment and initial retests have come back fungus-free. She still has a few months until she’s fully recovered but Helen Woodward Animal Center staff won’t give up on her. We’ll see her through her entire medical journey, until she’s ready to find her forever home.

Roo’s medical care is possible thanks to incredible donors who provide the funds necessary to cover the costs of medicine, specialists, and routine medical checks. You can help Roo and other orphan pets like her by sending your gift today or donating at animalcenter.org. Thank you!
On September 23, 2021, the world will #ShineALight on rescue pets in an effort to inspire millions to opt to adopt and remember the many beautiful orphan pets still waiting in shelters for forever homes.

Held yearly on the fourth Thursday of September, Remember Me Thursday® has reached people in 190 countries and garnered more than 1 billion social media impressions in its eight years. Started by Helen Woodward Animal Center President and CEO, Mike Arms, the day is commemorated by heartfelt social media posts, celebrity involvement, and touching candle lighting ceremonies.

The campaign has seen global participation with rescue groups, local governments, media and businesses as far as Estonia, Singapore, Australia, and Puerto Rico to name a few.

Each year, celebrities such as Diane Keaton, Carrie Ann Inaba, Katherine Heigl, Kristin Chenoweth, Bethenny Frankel, Jennie Garth, Wynonna Judd, and dozens more, along with professional sports teams, have used social media to share the “opt to adopt” message and save orphan pets. Social media pet stars such as Boogie Shoes, Cole and Marmalade and Tuna Melts My Heart have also joined the cause.

Joining a growing list of celebrity animal lovers lending their voice to orphan pets on Remember Me Thursday® is this year’s spokesperson, Brittany Aldean. The model, former NBA cheerleader, makeup artist, and social media influencer is an avid animal advocate and loving pet parent. She’s the wife of country music star Jason Aldean. Brittany is looking forward to sharing the importance of animal rescue with her 2.6 million followers throughout the Remember Me Thursday® social media campaign. We caught up with her to ask why she is passionate about getting involved.

1. Have you always been an animal lover?
   Yes, I have always been an animal lover!

2. What was your first pet?
   Aside from fish and tadpoles growing up, my first pet was an American Eskimo dog named Charlie.

3. What pets does your family currently have?
   Currently, we have fish and two dogs. One Pomeranian named Mia and one Pit Bull mix named Saint.

4. How do you feel that animals have impacted your life or the lives of your children?
   Animals were a constant in my life growing up. I think it teaches responsibility and how to love and care for something. The love an animal gives is truly special and something I wish everyone experienced. It was important for me to have animals in our house and around our children. I want them to learn to be loving, compassionate and comfortable around them.

5. What drew you to Helen Woodward Animal Center?
   There are so many reasons I was drawn to the Helen Woodward Animal Center. From the number of animals they save yearly, to the no-kill policy, I knew it was a special place. This nonprofit organization provides educational and therapeutic programs for people, as well as humane care and adoption for homeless animals.

6. Why do you think Remember Me Thursday® provides an important message?
   People need to know how much of an impact pet adoptions have on countless lives. There are so many animals that need our help and loving homes and Remember Me Thursday® helps bring awareness to that.

7. What do you plan to do to get the word out about Remember Me Thursday®?
   Social Media! The reach that social media has is staggering so I am excited to spread the word on my platforms!

8. How do you think a campaign like Remember Me Thursday® can impact pet adoption?
   When people see others adopting and living happy and fun lives with pets in their homes, it helps them realize that they too can have a sweet animal to come home to. I am a firm believer that adopted pets know they are getting a second chance at life. Every adopted animal we have ever owned has been so sweet and in a sense, thankful.
We’d love your Support

Celebrity support of Remember Me Thursday® has always been a huge asset for generating public awareness of this campaign on social media and via the press since the campaign launched in 2013.


In addition, animal loving teams like the San Diego Padres and the St. Louis Blues, have introduced sports enthusiasts to adoptable pets at home games every Remember Me Thursday® to date.

In 2021, Remember Me Thursday® will continue to enlist the support of the pet-loving public, animal welfare organizations, celebrities, and key influencers to increase unparalleled global awareness of the many available healthy, adoptable and loving pets.

Your help is needed to bring the world’s attention to pet adoption on Remember Me Thursday®, September 23rd, 2021.

- Spread awareness via social media of Remember Me Thursday® and the importance of pet adoption on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. using messaging, selfies with your pets encouraging your followers to share their rescue pets, and utilizing the hashtag #RememberMeThursday

- Light a candle on Remember Me Thursday®, Thursday September 23rd, at remembermethursday.org in honor of those pets who left this world without the benefit of a loving home.

- Contact us if you would like to host or attend any of the Remember Me Thursday® events being held by animal welfare organizations, communities, and large venues around the world.
The 33rd Annual Spring Fling Gala, Sparks Imagination

Helen Woodward Animal Center’s most decadent event of the year brought out the Center’s wonderful supporters for the 33rd Annual Spring Fling Gala, Imaginarium presented by Whittier Trust and by Jim Hooker and Portia Metras at Coldwell Banker.

The event returned to the gorgeous outdoor venue at the Fairbanks Ranch Country Club in Rancho Santa Fe. The Spring Fling Gala is the Center’s biggest fundraiser of the year and featured wine, cocktails, and a variety of delicious dishes from some of the best restaurants in the city.

Imaginarium – Illuminating a More Humane Future, signaled the official return of in-person events for Helen Woodward Animal Center. The evening’s entertainment included a super-silent auction, illusionists, an arousing live auction, and the Center’s heartwarming fund-a-need programs.

A virtual program and proxy bidding were also available for guests wishing to support furry friends from home.

The event was beautifully planned by the 2021 Imaginarium Gala committee made up of passionate supporters of orphan pets. Back to co-chair is longtime Center friend and supporter Jamie Carr, along with passionate animal-advocate Erin Combs. Other committee chairs included Victoria Brown, Joel Garlejo and Mary Cuens who graciously volunteered their planning talents to the glamorous hybrid event. Committee Restaurant Chair Ann Dizney was also back to secure an impressive lineup of the area’s top eateries.

Helen Woodward Animal Center extends its deepest gratitude to the attendees, sponsors, donors, and restaurants who contributed toward the success of the event. The Spring Fling Gala raised an impressive $580,000 to support the orphan pets and life-changing programs at Helen Woodward Animal Center.

FALL EDUCATION CORNER

Gown up for You Can Be A Veterinarian Camp and practice some necessary medical skills, such as suturing and vaccine injections on applicable models. You’ll get an opportunity to meet and interact with several animals as well as participate in activities that support veterinary skills.

SIGN UP TODAY!

Visit animalcenter.org/education for full details and online registration for both programs. Questions? Call us at (858) 756-4117x318 or e-mail education@animalcenter.org

Torrey Pines Wealth Management is honored to support Helen Woodward Animal Center

Steven M. DeMatteo, CEPA®
Senior Vice President–Wealth Management

Chelsey Frate, AWMA®
Financial Advisor
torreypineswealthmanagement@ubs.com

UBS Financial Services Inc.
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Heartwarming Accomplishments Shared by Riders and Therapy Horses

Helen Woodward Animal Center showcased the skills of some very special students at the 2021 Therapeutic Riding Show in mid-June. The annual event, with an Under the Sea theme, invited parents, friends, and family members to gather in the Center’s Riding Arena for a performance of newly-developed equine abilities demonstrated by Therapeutic Riding clients, followed by a presentation of awards. The moving and inspirational event is a memorable experience for the participants and for those who get to cheer them on.

Helen Woodward Animal Center’s Therapeutic Riding Program was established in 1983 and was developed to assist children and adults with a variety of cognitive and physical disabilities. Students ride specially-trained horses with certified instructors in weekly sessions to develop increased balance and muscle control, improve concentration and short-term memory, and enhance their confidence and self-esteem. Therapeutic riding can benefit individuals with a wide range of challenges, be it cognitive, physical, emotional, social or a combination thereof. But perhaps one of the most significant results of the program is the unmistakable joy received by its riders.

This year’s Therapeutic Riding Show was particularly special and celebrated the on-going reopening of the program since it was forced to completely shut down due to the pandemic. Many of the riders have returned to the arena but some continue to take necessary health precautions including students with weakened immune systems.

“This show is something we look forward to all year and this year it’s even more exciting,” Therapeutic Riding Manager Courtney Mellor said. “This last year has been particularly hard for our riders, horses, staff and volunteers and the horse show was the perfect opportunity to celebrate us getting back out doing what we all love. Seeing the students’ smiling faces and their families cheering them on is incredibly touching.”


Those interested in giving toward the Therapeutic Riding Program can do so at animalcenter.org.
NextLeft is a results-driven team of digital marketing experts who drive strategy with data and get things done. As a leading content marketing firm NextLeft partners with brands and agencies to strategize, create and promote helpful, relevant content that increases organic rankings.

“Since transitioning to remote work, our beloved pets have kept our laps warm, photobombed our zoom calls, and become members of our NextLeft family. The mission-driven work that Helen Woodward Animal Center does every day has touched our hearts and aligns greatly with our culture. We are honored to partner with an organization where ‘people help animals and animals help people,” added Alexa Withrow, Manager of Social Impact at NextLeft.

Special thanks to CEO and Manager of Social Impact, John McKusick, and Alexa Withrow for your ongoing pro-bono support of Helen Woodward Animal Center.

Can you Google SEARCH your pet?

Now offering Diamond Membership with your own Dedicated Personal Pet Recovery Specialist!

Save 25% on all replacement Pet ID Tags, get assisted by a Dedicated Pet Recovery Specialist when your pet is lost, get instant TEXTable pet’s microchip#, and many more features when you upgrade your pet registration to DIAMOND!

Scan QR Code for more details!

Contact Save This Life to upgrade your pet’s membership to Diamond!
www.SaveThisLife.com or 855-777-CHIP (855-777-2447)
MEMORIAL GIFTS
We have a beautiful program called “I Remember You” to memorialize pets on-line, by “lighting a candle” and sharing a story and photo. If you have any questions please call the Center, x350 or visit the site to light a candle. old.animalcenter.org/irememberyou/

MONETARY DONATIONS
Helen Woodward Animal Center relies heavily on private donations to fund our programs.

BECOME A ‘PAW PAL’
Monthly donors support our work throughout the year with recurring monthly gifts. Join ‘Paw Pals’ and receive a commemorative pin to show your support.

IN-KIND DONATIONS
To help reduce costs, our programs are always in need of items to support their activities. Visit animalcenter.org for our current wish list of specific needs.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT CARDS
Give the gift that saves lives! A gift to help the animals is a great way to celebrate a birthday, graduation, or the upcoming holidays. We will send a personalized card notifying the recipient of your gift.

VEHICLE DONATIONS
Take the hassle out of selling your old car, truck, motorcycle, or other vehicle — donate it to Helen Woodward Animal Center! Our simple, hassle-free program will take care of all the paperwork, pick up your vehicle, and send you the documents needed for a tax deduction, while providing valuable funds to help the animals! Call 844-854 PAWS to donate.

PLANNED GIFTS & PET BEQUESTS
Including Helen Woodward Animal Center in your will or trust will create a lasting legacy to help pets and people in need for years to come. Make provisions to ensure your pets will be cared for in the event of your passing. Contact Renee Resko: 858-756-4117 x347 or email ReneeR@animalcenter.org

SPECIAL EVENTS
The Center holds a variety of exciting fundraising events throughout the year from our Surf Dog Surf-A-Thon to our Spring Fling Gala. Visit animalcenter.org for more information.

CORPORATE AND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS
Get your company involved to raise funds for the animals by sponsoring an event, running your own fundraiser, or participating in our HOPE Telethon. Contact Renee Resko: 858-756-4117 x347 or email ReneeR@animalcenter.org

VOLUNTEER
Our work depends entirely on the support of our dedicated volunteers. Many opportunities are available for youth, adults, and groups in our various programs and events. Contact Megan McCarty: 858-756-4117 x305, email MeganM@animalcenter.org or sign up at animalcenter.org

HOW YOU CAN HELP
There are so many things you can do to help animals and people in need in our community

DONATE TODAY!
Contact 858-756-4117 x358, or KristineF@animalcenter.org

If you would like more information about including the Center in your estate plans, please email ReneeR@animalcenter.org

Bill Gottwald, a longtime North County San Diego resident, and animal lover passed on November 9, 2020. Never having children of his own, Bill requested to leave a portion of his estate to Helen Woodward Animal Center to provide resources to the animals that brought him so much happiness and peace throughout his life. Bill had an accomplished career as a mechanical engineer and had a great passion for classic car collecting. Bill’s special love for animals started early in life when he got his parrot, Polly, who would ride everywhere with Bill on his bike as a child, and then on his motorcycles and in his cars as Bill got older. As an adult, Bill had two German Shepherds, Fritz and Blitz. At family gatherings, Bill was a magnet for all dogs and was the happiest when he had one by his side or on his lap. Bill had an incredible life of 92 years and his family is thankful for the resources that Helen Woodward will be able to provide through Bill’s estate.

Leave them in good hands
Renew or upgrade your GIFT CLUB MEMBERSHIP:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Level</th>
<th>Donation Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Best Friends</td>
<td>$150 - $249</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Faithful Friends</td>
<td>$250 - $499</td>
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<td>The Loyal Companions</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Helen Woodward Society, Bronze Circle</td>
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<td>The Helen Woodward Society, Gold Circle</td>
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Make a one-time gift club membership donation OR divide your gift into 12 monthly payments by joining Paw Pals monthly supporters.

Renew or upgrade your GIFT CLUB MEMBERSHIP.

ONCE IN A LIFETIME NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Our new building is open but you can still purchase commemorative plaques and pavers. These opportunities allow you to make a gift in memory of, or in honor of a beloved pet or family member, and give you a chance to leave your legacy.

Visit animalcenter.org/future TODAY to customize your gift for our Adoptions building and help us continue to give orphan pets the new facility they deserve!